stores. For seamless line pipes, risers and bends order has been placed on M/s Soconord, Belgium at a price of Beligian Francs 423.24 million.

Committee for welfare of Minorities

3652. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Committee in his Ministry for monitoring implementation of the 15-point Programme for the Welfare of the Minorities ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) the number of persons who have been provided with the Employment during the last three years under the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Saving in LPG consumption

3653. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that old L.P.G. stoves and non-I.S.I. standard L.P.G. stoves are to be phased out and replaced with fuel efficient stoves by which 15 percent saving in the consumption of L.P.G. could be made ;

(b) if so, whether a small amount of subsidy is proposed to be made available to facilitate replacement just as in the case of efficient foot valves and fuel efficient boilers furnances ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider a scheme for this purpose for saving foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There is no such scheme under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Development of Gadgets

3654. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that fuel saving Gadgets developed by independent scientists in Tamil Nadu could save 12 to 14 per cent fuel consumption , and

(b) whether Government would take measures to popularise the gadgets in view of the fuel savings resulting in foreign exchange savings ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir. Government are not aware of such Gadgets with proven results.

(b) Does not arise.

Addition of chemicals in Petrol/ Diesel

3655. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that certain chemicals additive sold abroad are known to effec about 14 per cent saving in patro and diesel vehicles ;

(b) if so, whether Government would direct oil companies in India to make use of these additives in the petrol and diesel ;

(c) whether any studies have been made to find out the amount of pollution added or diminished by the use of these additives ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Use of Alcohol in Petrol

3656. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to embark on use of 20 per cent alcohol in petrol as is being done all over the world ; and

(b) whether Government are aware that alcohol was being added to petrol in India even during world war-II and whether this was discontinued on the basis of a Cabinet decision and at lower level of bureaucrats with vested interests ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Alcohol was used in India in admixture with petrol during World War-II. Informtion in regard to reasons for discontinuing its use is not available.

LPG Distributors in Assam

3657. SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of LPG distributors in Assam, district-wise ;

(d) What are the criteria for awarding distributorship ;

(c) what is the procedure of selection ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the public is facing inconvenience due to shortage of distributorship ; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As on 1-1-1992, there were 108 LPG distributorships in Assam. District-wise details are not maintained in Government.

(b), and (c) Efforts are constantly on to provide LPG distributorships wherever required subject to product availability, economic viability etc. under various marketing plans.

(c) Selection of distrubutors is made by a selection agency constituted by Government from time to time and also through discretionary powers of Government.

Allotment of LPG cylinders

3658. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to the Starred Question 202 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 1992 and state :

(a) whether any such agency has been allotted to the relations of Central Ministers and their staff; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) A number of applications for grant of dealerships/distributor_